

ORLAGH IN THE CITY – Believe in Tomorrow, Sow a Seed!

Sunday 12th July 2026

Opening Hymn

Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence
Of all that I love here on earth
All the beauty I see He has given to me
And His giving is as gentle as silence
Every day, every hour, every moment
Have been blessed by the strength of His love
At the turn of each tide
He is there at my side
And His touch is as gentle as silence
There've been times when I've turned from his presence
And I've walked other paths, other ways
But I've called on His name in the dark of my shame
And His mercy was as gentle as silence



Peruvian Gloria

FIRST READING- Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Psalm 64(65):10-14

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain.

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows;

You level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth.

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You crown the year with your goodness.

Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.
Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks,

The valleys are decked with wheat, they shout for joy, yes, they sing.
Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL 1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:

You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!



Matthew 13:1-23- A Harvest Story

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams. “Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

Why Tell Stories?

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories? He replied; You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward a welcome awakening. In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they’re blue in the face and not get it. I don’t want Isaiah’s forecast repeated all over again:

Your ears are open but you don’t hear a thing.

Your eyes are awake but you don’t see a thing.

The people are stupid!

They stick their fingers in their ears so they won’t have to listen;

They screw their eyes shut

so they won’t have to look,

so they won’t have to deal with me face-to-face and let me heal them.

But you have God-blessed eyes—eyes that see! And God-blessed ears—ears that hear! A lot of people, prophets and humble believers among them, would have given anything to see what you are seeing, to hear what you are hearing, but never had the chance.

The Meaning of the Harvest Story

Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

The Gospel of the LORD

LECTIO

CREED- *A Creation Care Creed*

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer
Who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them
Who gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it 'very good'
Who crafts men and women, calling us to partnership with him in caring for his world
Who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of creation to thrive

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ
Who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world
Who used the natural world to teach us more of God's nature

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit
Who danced in the darkness at the dawn of time to bring light and life
Who breathes life and purpose into all living things
Who inspires and guides all people of God throughout the ages
Who opens our eyes to injustice and points us to the truth
Who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth
Who transforms our hearts and minds, empowering us to be faithful stewards

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing the earth and labouring for its healing and renewing, in loving obedience to God, following the example of Jesus Christ, and seeking the help of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BIDDING PRAYERS

OFFERTORY – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER – COMMUNION

REFLECTION

What do you want to bring from this Eucharist?

Announcements

Closing



Snoopy Attempting to Plant a Tree